

IAPIZ Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 SEP 2006

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Claims

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. (amended) A pipe insert which in use is to provide a connection between at least two spaced pipe ends which are fixed relative to each other, said pipe ends each having first connection means enabling the connection of an appliance between the pipe ends, the insert in use being intended to extend across the space between the pipe ends to replace the appliance and provide a fluid tight interconnection with between each pipe end and the abutting end of the insert, the insert having at least two ends, the pipe insert being adjustable to be able to vary the relative displacement between the ends, each end having second connection means adapted in use to be sealing interconnected with the first connection means.
2. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at claim 1 wherein the pipe insert is able to accommodate at least some of the intended fluid flow between the pipe ends.
3. A pipe insert as claimed at claim 2 wherein the pipe insert constitutes a flow conduit between the ends.
4. A pipe insert as claimed at claim 3 wherein the flow conduit comprises an integral part of the pipe insert.
5. A pipe insert as claimed at claim 3 wherein the flow conduit is of a flexible or extendable nature.
6. A pipe insert as claimed at any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the pipe insert is adapted to receive at least one of a selection of flow control and/or sensing elements.
7. A pipe insert as claimed at any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the pipe insert incorporates a flow control and/or sensing elements.

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8. A pipe insert as claimed at claim 1 wherein the pipe insert is not able to accommodate flow between the pipe ends.
- 5 9. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein, the pipe insert comprises a plurality of interengaged sections which are displaceable relative to each other to vary the relative displacement between the ends of the insert, and a locking means is provided between the sections, said locking means being capable of being released to permit relative movement between the sections.
- 10 10. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at claim 9 as dependant upon claim 2 wherein the sections accommodate for fluid flow between the flanges and are sealingly interconnected.
11. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at claim 9 or 10 wherein the sections are telescopingly interengaged.
- 15 12. A pipe insert as claimed at claim 9 or 10 wherein, the sections are threadably interengaged, whereby the relative displacement is varied by varying the relative longitudinal position of the threadable interconnection between the sections.
- 20 13. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the second connection means are removable from the ends and the second connection means which are to be affixed to the ends can be selected from a plurality of differing forms of second connection means adapted to conform with the first connection means of the pipe ends of differing sizes.
- 25 14. A pipe insert as claimed at any one of the preceding claims wherein the ends of the insert are displaceable along a common axis.

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15. A pipe insert as claimed at any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the ends of the insert are displaceable along at least two axes which are angularly displaced from each other.
- 5 16. (amended) A pipe insert as claimed at claim 15 wherein the ends of the insert are displaceable along two axes which are substantially perpendicular to each other.
17. A pipe insert as claimed at any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the ends of the insert are displaceable along at least two axes which are spaced from each other.
- 10 18. A pipe inset substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 15 19. (amended) A method of connecting at least two spaced pipe ends which are fixed relative to each other, said pipe ends each having first connection means enabling the connection of an appliance between the pipe ends, the method comprising the steps of:
- providing an insert of the form as claimed at any one of the preceding claims between the at least two spaced pipe ends;
- adjusting the length of insert to cause relative displacement between the ends of the insert according to the spacing between the pipe ends;
- 20 inserting the inset into the space between the pipe ends; and
- connecting the insert to the pipe ends with the abutting first and second connection means to provide a fluid tight interconnection therebetween.
20. A method substantially of connecting at least two spaced pipe ends as herein described.

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- 21.(new) A pipe insert as claimed at any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the first connection means each comprise a flange at the respective pipe end and said second connection means each comprise a flange at the respective end wherein the first and second connection means are of a complementary form.
- 5 22.(new)) A pipe insert as claimed any one of claims 1 to 17 and claim 21 wherein the pipe insert is able to accommodate the flow and pressure conditions anticipated for the appliance in use.
- 10 23.(new) A pipe insert as claimed any one of claims 1 to 17 and claim 21 and 22 wherein the pipe insert is configured and such that it can accommodate the anticipated mechanical loadings anticipated to be applied to the appliance in use.